

IT'S LAKE COUNTY FAIR TIME! From agricultural exhibits and horse shows to grandstand events and carnival rides, the Lake County Fair has something for everyone! This year's fair runs August 7 to 16 at the Lake County Fairgrounds in Crown Point. **INFO:** www.lake-county-fair.com



GAZEBOEXPRES

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • AUGUST 2015

REIMAGINING HIGHLAND

As the owner of Miles Books, James Roumbos has a unique vantage point – and point of view – when it comes to opportunities for downtown.

One of the region's only independent book stores, Miles Books, 2819 Jewett St., has become a destination for book lovers of vintage tomes.

"When customers come to us, especially those who aren't familiar with Highland, I always tell them about the stores around us," Roumbos said.

Much like managing-up employees in the office setting, Roumbos believes talking-up his neighbors is key to the downtown's long-term success.

"Our business climate could be even better if every business told their customers about the great items and services offered at the others," he said.

As the Redevelopment Commission contemplates options for downtown, Roumbos believes other programs worth considering include the addition of a free downtown trolley and incentive programs to build traffic and sales for merchants.

While Roumbos and his retail neighbors study the issue from the inside, the firm of Short Elliot Hendrickson (SEH) is taking a global look at a section of downtown Highland. Paid for by a Creating Livable Communities Grant, the "Highland Kennedy Avenue Corridor Plan" will be incorporated into the town's vision for an Arts & Cultural District anchored by the Town Theatre. 🐦



WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS ...

SEH is working with the Redevelopment Commission to envision the future of Highland that builds upon the community's small-town charm. Three key areas have been identified:

COMPLETE THE GRID

Well-maintained streetscapes and unique artistic features help build positive memories. Extending streets west of Kennedy would provide opportunities for a mixed-use development along the bike path to enhance the Arts & Cultural District. Retail stores and art studios showcasing the work of local artists is on the list, too.

LEVERAGE THE TRAIL

Well-planned vehicular, bike and pedestrian routes anchored by a central park could link the theatre and trail with on- and off-street parking. Mixed-use, street-level retail combined with upper-floor housing makes for a more robust local economy.

EXPAND DOWNTOWN

Healthy and vibrant downtowns combine greenspace with retail and housing for an aesthetically pleasing, comfortable lifestyle. They allow people to shop, play, work and live in an area that invites pedestrians and bikers while enhancing traffic flow.

SMITH FAMILY BENEFIT

The Highland and Calumet City FOP along with the town's two Knights of Columbus chapters are hosting a Pasta Dinner and Silent Auction to benefit the widow and two small children of Highland Police Officer Shawn Smith, who died at the age of 34 in June. The event costs \$10 and includes entertainment and dinner – two pastas, two sauces, tossed salad, bread and desserts. Cash bar available.

WANT TO MAKE A DONATION?

Please make checks payable to:

Shawn Smith Family
c/o Knights of Columbus
9640 Kennedy Avenue
Highland, IN 46322

WHEN: 6 p.m. to midnight **AUGUST 29**

WHERE: St. James Hall, 9640 Kennedy

INFO: Call Dan Mills at (219) 801-5250 or Robert Mikuly at (219) 776-8773 for more information about the event or to donate silent auction items.

HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

To make your environment safer, bring your batteries, household cleaners, oils, paints, solvents, poisons, gasoline, pesticides, antifreeze, mercury thermometers, thermostats and fluorescent bulbs to the town garage. Items not accepted include tires, appliances, ammunition, explosives, medical/radioactive wastes, asbestos, 30-gallon or larger containers.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. **AUGUST 22**

WHERE: Highland Public Works,
8001 Kennedy Avenue.

INFO: Call (219) 972-5083.

NOW SHOWING: BURGERS, SHAKES AND A MOVIE!

Most Sundays at dusk, Blue Top Drive-In is transformed into an outdoor theatre, complete with movies that harken back a generation or two.

While flicks like "Grease" and "American Graffiti" flash on a giant screen mounted atop the roof, carloads of families lean back to listen to the audio streaming live on 99.1 FM while savoring root beer floats and burgers done just right.

"It was something the owners thought the community would enjoy," Blue Top Manager George Fotopoulos said. "The plan is to continue this new tradition as long as the weather cooperates."



... TOWN TICKER ...

The **School Town of Highland** is accepting applications for kitchen and cafeteria help for 2 to 3 hours per day. No weekends, evenings or holidays. Apply online at www.highland.k12.in.us. ... Owners of **Highland Board Shop** (across the street from the former Finke's) are stoked. Business is booming at the skate board shop that is open 3 to 8 weekdays and noon to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

OUTDOOR STREET MARKET

Support local businesses and musicians at the street market featuring produce and artisanal goods.

ENTERTAINMENT:

Aug. 8: David Blixt
Aug. 22: Eric Brumley
Aug. 29: Krystal Kadar
Sept. 5: Michelle Josephine Velez

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through **OCT. 17.**

WHERE: Main Square Park

INFO: Call (219) 838-0114 or visit us online at highlandparks.org.

CHAMBER VENDOR FAIR

Join the Highland/Griffith Chambers of Commerce for an after-hours business networking vendor fair and concert featuring Echoes of Pompeii.

WHEN: 4 to 7:30 p.m. **AUGUST 13**

WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center

ADMISSION: \$20 includes vendor fair, concert, light refreshments and one alcoholic beverage or pop.

INFO: Call (219) 923-3666.



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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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HIGHLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT SEEKS PROBATIONARY POLICE OFFICER

The Town of Highland is accepting applications for position of Probationary Police Officer through Aug. 20.

In order to be considered, you must:

- ✓ Be at least 21 years of age and not older than 35 years of age when hired
- ✓ Be a United States citizen
- ✓ Be a high school graduate or have a G.E.D. equivalency
- ✓ Be of good reputation and character
- ✓ Be able to pass an agility test, written test, polygraph, background investigation, medical examination and psychological examination
- ✓ Have a valid driver's license
- ✓ Meet residency requirements within six months of employment

You are not required to take the agility or written test if you are certified through the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy or a law enforcement agency recognized by the Highland Police Department and the State of Indiana.

ABOUT THE PROCESS

APPLICATIONS: Applications are available at the Highland Police Department, 3333 Ridge Road, and online at highlandpolice.com.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Midnight Aug. 20.

QUESTIONS? Call (219) 838-3184 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

As soon as the police department advertised a vacancy in July, potential applicants began making tracks to apply.

In just 10 days, as many as 106 job seekers requested packets – and that doesn't include those who downloaded them online.

Assistant Police Chief Pat Vassar said the department has been pleasantly surprised by the level of interest in the open position.

"We have been contacted from interested individuals from as far away as Guantanamo Bay, Cuba," Vassar said. "We hope to be able to select from a large number of qualified applicants. We are looking for candidates who see police work as a calling and not just a job." 🐼

ARCHITECTS WEIGH IN ON TOWN THEATRE

Councilman Bernie Zemen is dreaming big when it comes to a new Town Theatre and its status as anchor to a new Arts & Cultural District.

"I want to see Redevelopment buy the old Ace Hardware along with storefronts they don't already own all the way up to Aide Rentals II," Zemen said. "I would love to see the theatre district become a town-within-a-town. My only concern is timing. I am eager to get this moving."

Zemen may not have long to wait.

The Redevelopment Commission sent a Request for Proposals to 13 architects in July to develop a plan for the construction phase of the project. Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said several firms have already expressed interest.

"I've been getting calls and giving tours of the theatre to architects who want to get involved," Petro said. "We are just as eager as the community to get this project moving."

DID YOU KNOW?

The town is interested in talking to those who would like to lease the renovated theatre for conferences, private viewings or live performances. The revamped space will include an expanded conference room and larger lobby space in addition to the auditorium. Call Cecile Petro at (219) 972-7598 or email cpetro@highland.in.gov.

RFPs are due Aug. 17 to the Redevelopment Commission, which is gearing up to meet as often as necessary to study the proposals and make a decision. The commission also anticipates an August closing on the two properties north of the theatre that will be incorporated into the project.

"We will be busy for the rest of the year getting everything moving," Petro said. "As warm as it is now, we know it won't be long before the snow flies. We have a great deal of work to get done before then." 🐼

2015 PATRIOT OF THE YEAR



HIGHLAND'S GARY & SHAR MILLER, PROMPT AMBULANCE FIRST-RESPONDERS RECOGNIZED FOR HEROIC PATRIOTISM

Husband-and-wife duo Gary and Shar Miller have been named 2015 Patriots of the Year.

The pair, who own and operate Highland-based Prompt Ambulance, will be recognized by the Lake Court House Foundation at a brunch in their honor.

"Gary and Shar Miller are patriots through and through," Lake Court House Foundation President Marty Wheeler said. "Wherever there is chaos - whether that is natural or manmade - Gary and Shar don't just volunteer; they jump in."

From Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy to the Gulf oil spill, Prompt paramedics and ambulances were there to help.

Shar Miller said lending a hand is just part of who they are.

"Gary and I met as members of different Jaycees organizations. Jaycees is built on the idea of helping others," she said. "It seemed the right thing to do when we started Prompt Ambulance to use our resources to help others."

PATRIOT BRUNCH

Strike up the band as we wrap up Patriot Week with a brunch honoring Gary and Shar Miller and the Prompt First Responders from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. **SEPTEMBER 13** at the historic Lake Court House in downtown Crown Point.

The brunch features prime rib carving stations, customized omelette stations, savory chicken crepes, mini pastries, muffins, scones and other brunch offerings. Bloody Mary-Mimosa bar rounds out the afternoon as well as the usual suspects - coffee, tea and juice.

A \$100 donation reserves your seat. Proceeds benefit the Lake Court House Foundation.

INFO: Call the foundation office at (219) 663-0660 or log onto brownpapertickets.com/2080944 to reserve your seat today!

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

As summer draws to a close, Highland schools are back in session **AUGUST 11**. Remember to safely share the roads with school buses, pedestrians and bicyclists. Provide your children with the necessary knowledge to stay safe at school.

"We have small windows of time in the mornings and afternoons when we have large numbers of children who are out and about," Highland Police Chief Pete Hojnicky said. "They may not always be watching as well as they should. It is our job to be defensive drivers."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, pedestrians account for 30 percent of all traffic fatalities involving children under the age of 15.

To keep everyone safe this school year:

MOTORISTS SHOULD ...

- ✓ Stop for flashing lights and stop signs on a school bus, regardless of which direction you are headed.
- ✓ Keep an eye on bus stops, watching for children who may dart out.

STUDENTS SHOULD ...

- ✓ Stand back from the road when waiting for the school bus.
- ✓ Look both ways before crossing the street or wait for the crossing guard.



HHS TAILGATE PARTY

With the start of school, fall football and tailgating can't be far behind. The Highland Athletic Boosters will hold their annual tailgate party before the Highland Trojans/Hammond High Wildcats match-up. All proceeds support athletic programs in Highland. Get your tickets today!

WHEN: 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, **AUGUST 21**

WHERE: Highland High baseball field

INFO: Email haabc14@gmail.com.

TROJAN TROT 5K RUN

Put on your running shoes and join the Highland Adult Athletic Booster Club for its inaugural Trojan Trot 5K. All proceeds benefit Highland High School Athletics.

WHEN: 9 a.m. Saturday, **AUGUST 22**

REGISTRATION: 8 a.m. Saturday or pre-register at highlandtrojantrot@gmail.com.

WHERE: Highland High track

FEE: \$20 rain or shine

INFO: Email Sandy McKnight or Beth Wood at highlandtrojantrot@gmail.com

NFL PUNT, PASS & KICK

This free event — held in conjunction with the Highland High School Tailgate party — is open to boys and girls ages 6-15.

WHEN: 5 p.m. **AUGUST 21**

WHERE: Highland High School baseball field

REGISTER: By Aug. 19 at Lincoln Center or at www.nflppk.com. Birth certificate required.

NOTE: Tennis shoes only; no cleats.

INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.

ABC PLAYTIME

This “Mommy & Me” class is designed for 1½- to 2½-year-olds who want to learn but aren’t quite ready for preschool. You and your child will enjoy age-appropriate activities and crafts.

WHEN: 10:35 to 11:35 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, **SEPTEMBER 8 - DECEMBER 10**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$170 residents/\$180 nonresidents

ONLINE CODE: 348024

INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.

WIGGLES & GIGGLES

This class is designed for 1½- to 2½-year-old toddlers who have not met many children. You and your child will enjoy age appropriate activities, stories and crafts.

WHEN: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Mondays, **SEPTEMBER 14 - DECEMBER 14**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$83 residents/\$93 nonresidents

ONLINE CODE: 348006

INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.

EVP® YOUTH VOLLEYBALL

Taught by EVP volleyball professionals, this six-week program focuses on the fundamentals of passing, setting and spiking. The lesson plan directs the use of self-mastery training that helps each student reach a new level.

WHEN: Mondays **SEPTEMBER 14 - OCTOBER 19**

GRADES 3-5: 4 to 5 p.m.

GRADES 6-8: 5 to 6 p.m.

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$74 residents/\$79 nonresidents

ONLINE CODE: 170006

INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.

BALLET CLASSES

PRE-BALLET: The beginning point for all potential dancers, this class will improve coordination, motor skills and concentration. Need pink ballet shoes. Must be potty trained.
AGES 3-4: 10 to 10:30 a.m. Saturdays

BALLET BASICS 1: Build on pre-ballet by incorporating basic steps. Proper placement and correct technique is stressed.

AGES 4-6: 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Saturdays

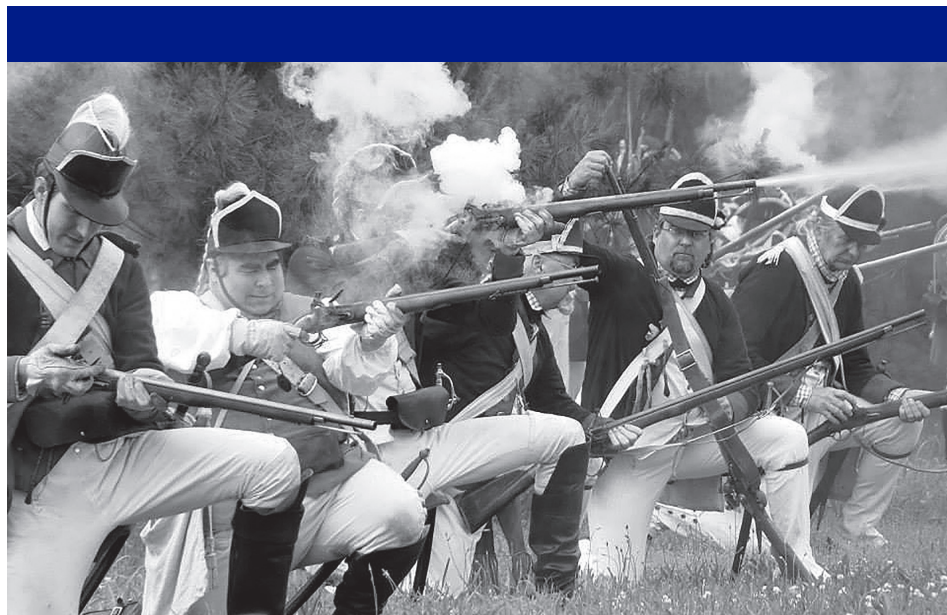
AGES 5-8: 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. Tuesdays

WHEN: 4 weeks beginning **SEPTEMBER 8, 12**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$35 residents/\$38 nonresidents

INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.



Battle on the Ridge

Step back in time at an authentic 18th Century camp. Mingle with reenactors portraying British, Continental and Loyalist troops. Roam the battlefield. Take in the artillery and tactical demos by the Northwest Territory Alliance.

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

August 15 and 16

BATTLES: 11 a.m. Saturday

and 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

OPENING COLORS:

10 a.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. Sunday.

ARTILLERY DEMONSTRATIONS:

2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

WHERE: Main Square Park

INFO: Call Dawn (219) 923-0514.



FALL SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Register now for Parks and Recreation’s fall softball league. It’s a 14-game round-robin season. Rosters are limited to 20 players. Highland Parks and Recreation reserves the right to place teams in the proper division. Cash awards will be given in each division!

SEASON: Runs **SEPTEMBER 13 - OCTOBER 30**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

TEAM FEE: \$560 due by **AUGUST 18**

SEED MEETING: A manager’s seed meeting will be held at 6 p.m. **AUGUST 26** at Lincoln Center.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

SWIM CLUB REGISTRATION

The Highland Hurricanes Swim Club, a competitive swim team for youth ages 5-18 in Highland and surrounding communities, is conducting registration for its fall/winter season, which begins Aug. 31. Birth certificate needed for registration. New members must bring a swimsuit/towel for in-water evaluation.

WHEN: 5:30 to 7 p.m. **AUGUST 19** and **26**

WHERE: Highland High Natatorium, 9135 Erie St.

FEE: Varies depending on age and level.

Payment plans are available.

INFO: (219) 595-9357 or highlandhurricanes.net.